

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
UT Thompson Conference Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive
Room 3.122
Austin, Texas 78758
March 23, 2012 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Introduction of Committee Members and welcome visitors.....Victoria Li, P.E., Chair

Our audience consisted of city officials and engineers from Brownwood, McAllen, Sugar Land, South Lake, El Paso, Austin, Brownwood, Garland, Waco; state employees from TCEQ and TXDot; the Lower Colorado River Authority and Trinity River Authority and the building official from DFW International Airport.

2. Public commentVictoria Li, P.E., Chair

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

3. Discuss and possibly approve the March 2, 2011,
Government Advisory Committee Minutes.....Victoria Li, P.E., Chair
Minutes were approved.

4. C. W. Clark gave an update on issues from the Board, including the following

- Legislative Issues
- Rule Changes
- New Enforcement Processes
- Software Engineering
- Computer Based Testing
- HB3 Windstorm Inspector
- Engineers/Architect Update
- 4 year rule review
- Strategic Plan
- On-line Application

5. Priscilla Pipho provided an update on theTBPE Strategic Plan and posed the following questions.

Strategic Planning:

Have you done strategic planning? Have you received input from stakeholders? Did you find a way that worked best? Did you do a SWOT analysis?

Ms. Pipho asked the group, “As a primary stakeholder group, what do you see as TBPE’s Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Challenges?”

- Getting applicants through the system quickly (not a weakness but a challenge)
- Engineers emerging from school without Project Management skills
- Importance of a PE license has diminished
 - educators not required to be licensed
 - industry exemptions

- Bringing the path to licensure to the forefront of college education
- Partnering with the higher education coordinating board to require educators to encourage FE
- Several people mentioned that hiring new engineering program graduates have not taken the FE, and in some cases have been discouraged from taking it by their colleges. This is a problem for the governmental entity because the career path is dependent upon licensure.
- Discussion about outreach related to the importance of licensure
- TBPE should follow the model of TBAE for promoting the profession (I explained that TBAE didn't promote the profession, that we simply did outreach to the disparate stakeholders)
- Public Works Employees ; Associations of Regional Authorities; Council of Governments
- City of Austin does outreach to each school to educate about watershed issues
- Community groups, such as Junior Achievement
- TxDot has a grant for economically-disadvantaged high school students
- Utilize web-based communication
- Look at future generation – how do they communicate
- Get to the kids before high school so they can choose a path
- Local elementary schools – partnering with a magnet school
- Speakers Bureau so we can help you with the message – earn Continuing Education
- Have a presentation tailored to local officials (Balli)
- Message: When is an engineer needed?
- Message: When is an architect required – discussion of HB 2284
- Message: Public procurement
- Message: Engineering In Training – encourage them to go further and get licensed
- Message: benefit of becoming a licensed, professional engineer

6. C. W. Clark and Priscilla Pipho discussed the TBPE approach to Outreach and How would you like TBPE to provide information? Additional question asked about how agency outreach could be improved, what suggestions they would offer, and how they would like to be communicated with. Many of the questions were within the feedback dialogue.

The following suggestions were offered from those participating.

- You should meet with some stakeholders face-to-face so that you can have an exchange of ideas and hear more fully what the comments are
- If you do a survey, make it electronic
- If you do a survey, add lots of open-ended questions – that's where you will really get value
- Consider calling it a SWOC analysis – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges
- Give your customers a voice by allowing them to meet with you rather than all in writing
- Select specific groups you want to hear from
- Work with your professional societies – not just TSPE, but IEEE, ASCE, ASME, etc.
- A few cities do year-round strategic planning where they are taking input from stakeholders throughout a long-term planning process
- Use project management tools coming out of the strategic plan to ensure that what you say you are going to do actually gets done

- Create Task Forces to take on subjects; hold hearings
- Have a web presence with constant input (hmm like our survey!)
- Create initiatives and use a Work breakdown Structure to determine what it takes to get the work done
- Sugarland creates a Citizens' Academy to help educate
- Tie in a risk analysis of activities chosen
- Use a survey to get broad questions asked
- Use SWOT analysis with stakeholders to identify blind spots; don't be prescriptive on receiving feedback for that reason

Additional suggestions regarding other methods of communication delivery:

- Use technology to reach younger people such as Facebook, Twitter, UTube, Readit
- Use WebX conferences – you may get more input if they don't have to be in same room
- Don't assume that everyone wants to receive information the same way
- Some of us like to read; others like to talk
- Message: Communicate the importance and value of engineering
- Create a presentation that we could take and give as well; some expressed that whenever they have new elected officials that they must re-educate on the PSPA
- Consider going to Texas Municipal League and BOAT meetings
- Suggestions were made about forming a "speakers bureau" that would allow the committee members to assist TBPE in providing information updates.

7. A request for any issues for discussion from the Committee members was made by Ms. Victoria Li, P.E.
8. The group summarized issues for discussion at Joint meeting of the Education, Government, and Industry Advisory Committees in the afternoon.
9. Ms. Li asked for any issues for consideration at next scheduled meeting..
10. The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.